

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

*Acknowledging and Honoring YWCA of the Niagara Frontier as
The Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas
2021 Non-Profit of the Year Recipient*

WHEREAS, The *YWCA of the Niagara Frontier* was officially formed in 2015 through the merger of YWCA Tonawandas and YWCA of Niagara; and

WHEREAS, the “merger team”, composed of Valerie Cronin, Barbara Stryz, Dianne Cross, Caroline Wojtaszek, Catherine Braniecki, Kathleen Granchelli, Jill Townson, and Sylvia Baptiste, was very cognizant of the historic importance of the YWCAs to the Niagara Region; and

WHEREAS, on average, 768 families each year rely on the YWCA school age care programs to provide a safe, educational environment for working parents; and

WHEREAS, annually, 40 marginalized women receive unemployment and training skills in a safe environment returning them to the workforce; and

WHEREAS, these services and trainings are also provided to local schools and community groups to enhance community safety; and

WHEREAS, in early 2017, the new YWCA of the Niagara Frontier Board approved a plan to apply for funding to convert the former YWCA of the Tonawanda’s home to 12 units of permanent housing for Domestic Violence survivors with a small café included as a social enterprise; and

WHEREAS, their building at 49 Tremont in North Tonawanda was challenged with aging infrastructure and funding losses, but brought a legacy of important services to our community and now will continue to serve those in need; and

WHEREAS, the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier is committed to pertinent, timely, and life-changing programs that support its mission of empowering women, eliminating racism, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, with the combined inspirational, impacting, and vital histories of both YWCA of Niagara and YWCA of the Tonawandas, the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier encompasses a rich legacy of over 100 years of involvement in social justice and community engagement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature extends our appreciation and sincere praise to the *YWCA of the Niagara Frontier* and their members for their tremendous efforts to empower women, eliminate racism and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all; and be it further

RESOLVED, this Honorable Body understands that together, we can end the cycle of violence; teach valuable life and learning skills; support women and children as they achieve their dreams; and provide a strong community of care through our services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature proudly recognize the *YWCA of the Niagara Frontier* on being honored as the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas 2021 Non – Profit of the Year.

Hon. Kevin J. Hardwick
Erie County Legislator, 4th District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Legislature